



# LEEC

LOUISIANA ENVIRONMENTAL  
EDUCATION COMMISSION

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*A Weekly Compilation of Environmental Education News from Across Louisiana*

## LOUISIANA ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

### **SECRETARY JEWELL, GOVERNOR JINDAL ANNOUNCE PROPOSAL TO REMOVE LOUISIANA BLACK BEAR FROM ENDANGERED SPECIES LIST**

Thanks to a highly successful public-private partnership spanning more than two decades, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell and Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal announced May 20, 2015 that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is proposing to remove the Louisiana black bear – the inspiration for the “Teddy Bear” – from the list of threatened and endangered species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

“The Louisiana black bear symbolizes how the Endangered Species Act can be a remarkably effective tool to protect and recover threatened and endangered species when we work in close partnership with states and other stakeholders,” Jewell said. “Across Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi, we have worked together with our partners to protect and restore habitat, reintroduce populations and reduce the threats to the bear. Today’s recovery of the bear is yet another success story of the Endangered Species Act.”



Image by John Flores

Read more at <http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/news/39188>.

**LEEC/LDOE Green Schools Grants finalists announced.  
See the full announcement at <http://www.wlf.la.gov/eec>.**

## **ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS**

### **USGS SAYS FLORIDA MANATEE RISK OF EXTINCTION HAS LESSENERD**

Based on the data available in 2012, the long-term probability of the species surviving has increased compared to a 2007 analysis, as a result of higher aerial survey estimates of population size, improved methods of tracking survival rates, and better estimates of the availability of warm-water refuges.

USGS scientists, working with colleagues from several other agencies and universities, used the manatee Core Biological Model to analyze the long-term viability of the manatee population in Florida, and to evaluate the threats it faces. A similar analysis completed in 2007 was used by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as part of its 5-year Review of the status of manatees.

Read the full story at [the USGS site](#).



See the US Department of Interior video for this story, some spectacular footage of Yosemite bear cubs and more on the *This Week at Interior* YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NSG0v8l4o9I>.

## **WORKSHOPS AND SEMINARS**

### **AUDUBON INSTITUTE TEACHER WORKSHOPS**

The Audubon institute is offering several teacher workshops throughout the summer. They include: June 9, 2015 – WOW! Wonders of the Wetlands (K – 12) introducing the three parameters of wetlands: vegetation, soils and hydrology; Project WILD (K-12) featuring Project WILD materials, activities, and strategies; Math Zoomatics (Pre-K – 2nd) learning to teach early education math benchmarks using the natural world kids are instinctively attracted to; and Exploring Evolution (6th – 12th) explaining the relationships among evolution, adaptation and natural selection and how to approach these scientific principles.

Learn more at <http://www.auduboninstitute.org/teacher-resources/workshops>.

### **ONENOA SCIENCE SEMINARS**

The seminar series are the most complete and integrated summary of NOAA science and climate seminars across the nation. Upcoming topics include: Managing for Resilience in California's Inland Fishes; Drought Understanding, Monitoring, and Prediction; Climate Change: Embedding Social Sciences into Climate Policy; National Coastal Mapping Summit and more.

See the full listing and registration information at <http://www.nodc.noaa.gov/seminars/>

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